



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Oregon State Office
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, Oregon 97208

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1610 (OR912)

NOV 12 2013

Dear Reader:

Attached for your review and comment is the Oregon Sub-Regional Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendments /Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMP Amendments/Draft EIS) for the Oregon Sub-Region, a component piece of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy. The BLM prepared this document in consultation with cooperating agencies and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended; the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended; the National Forest Management Act of 1976, as amended; implementing regulations; the BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1); and other applicable law and policy.

The planning area consists of approximately 15 million acres of land in Oregon, which includes nearly 10 million acres of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on BLM-administered lands. When approved, up to eight BLM Resource Management Plans guiding management in Oregon will be amended. The Oregon Sub-Regional Greater Sage-Grouse Draft RMP Amendments/Draft EIS and supporting information is available on the web site at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/energy/opportunity/sagebrush.php>.

The BLM encourages the public to provide information and comments pertaining to the analysis presented in the Draft RMP Amendments/Draft EIS. As directed by the BLM Planning Regulations, Alternative D has been identified within the Draft EIS as the Preferred Alternative. Identification as the Preferred Alternative does not indicate any commitments on the part of the BLM with regard to a final decision. It is important to note that component pieces of any of the alternatives analyzed within the draft EIS may be incorporated into the final decision. We are particularly interested in feedback concerning the adequacy and accuracy of the proposed alternatives, the analysis of their respective management decisions, and any new information that would help the BLM the plan is developed. In developing the proposed RMP Amendments/Final EIS, which is the next phase of the planning process, the decision-maker may select various management decisions from each of the alternatives analyzed in the Draft RMP Amendments/Draft EIS for the purpose of creating a management strategy that best meets the needs of the resources and values in this area under the BLM's multiple use and sustained yield mandate. As a member of the public, your timely comments on the Oregon Sub-Regional Greater Sage-Grouse Draft RMP Amendments/Draft EIS will help formulate the proposed RMP Amendments/Final EIS. Comments will be accepted for ninety (90) calendar days following the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) publication of its Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. The BLM can best use your comments and resource information submissions if received within the review period.

Comments may be submitted electronically at: blm_or_so_gsg_planning_comments@blm.gov. Comments may also be submitted by mail to: BLM – Greater Sage-Grouse EIS, 1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Portland, OR 97204. To facilitate analysis of comments and information submitted, we strongly encourage you to submit comments in an electronic format.

Your review of and comments on this document are critical to the success of this planning effort. If you wish to submit comments on the Draft RMP Amendments/Draft EIS, we ask that you make your

comments as specific as possible. Comments will be more helpful if they include suggested changes, sources, or methodologies and reference to a section or page number. Comments containing only opinions or preferences will be considered and included as part of the decision-making process; however, they will not receive a formal response from the BLM.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please note that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Public meetings are being scheduled for January in Baker City, Burns, Lakeview, Ontario, and Prineville, Oregon. In these meetings, we will provide an overview of the document, respond to questions, and take written public comments. The meetings will be announced by local media, the BLM Oregon website, and/or public mailings at least 15 days in advance.

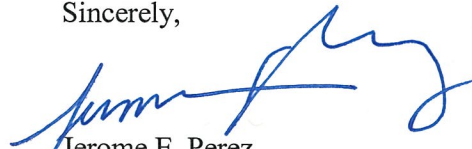
Copies of the Draft RMP Amendments/Draft EIS have been sent to affected Federal, state, and local government agencies as well as Tribal governments. Copies of the draft RMP Amendments/Draft EIS are available for public inspection at the following BLM locations:

Oregon/Washington State Office, 1220 SW 3rd Ave., Portland, OR 97204
Burns District Office, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, OR 97738
Lakeview District Office, 1301 S. "G" Street, Lakeview, OR 97630
Prineville District Office, 3050 N.E. 3rd Street, Prineville, OR 97754
Vale District Office, 100 Oregon St., Vale, OR 97918
Baker Field Office, 3285 11th St., Baker City, OR 97814

When the National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy was announced in 2011, it was acknowledged that work would be completed under a very restricted time schedule in order to meet the court-ordered deadline set for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reach a final determination on listing the Greater Sage-Grouse under the Endangered Species Act. The schedule is very ambitious, and we remain committed to maintaining that schedule. The existing deadlines do not allow us the luxury of extending comment periods. Given the large number of plans we must address, delays in any one area can negatively affect our ability to complete other plans in a timely manner. We recognize that much is at stake in the sagebrush habitat across the west, including energy development, recreation, livestock grazing, and fire management. We will continue to incorporate the most current information we have available as we write our Greater Sage-Grouse planning documents. We remain committed to addressing the threats posed to the species as well as to implementing the right policies and conservation measures now that will reduce long-term regulatory burdens on our stakeholders.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Oregon Sub-Regional Greater Sage-Grouse Draft RMP Amendments/Draft EIS. We appreciate the information and suggestions you contribute to the planning process.

Sincerely,



Jerome E. Perez
State Director
Oregon/Washington